

SAFEGUARDING OUR SYMBOL OF DEMOCRACY: U.S. CAPITOL POLICE'S MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

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SAFEGUARDING OUR SYMBOL OF DEMOCRACY: U.S. CAPITOL POLICE'S MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 11:12 a.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Candice S. Miller (chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Miller, Harper, Nugent, Davis, Comstock, Brady, Lofgren, and Vargas.

Staff Present: Sean Moran, Staff Director; John Clocker, Deputy Staff Director; Katie Patru, Deputy Staff Director; Erin McCracken, Communications Director; Brad Walvort, Professional Staff Member; Cole Felder, Legal Counsel; C. Maggie Moore, Legislative Clerk; Tim Sullivan, Staff Assistant; Jamie Fleet, Minority Staff Director; Matt Pinkus, Minority Senior Policy Advisor; Khalil Abboud, Minority Deputy Staff Director/Director of Legislative Operations; Mike Harrison, Minority Chief Counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. I call to order the Committee on House Administration for today's hearing on the U.S. Capitol Police. The hearing record will remain open for 5 legislative days so that members might submit any materials that they wish to be included.

A quorum is present so we might proceed.

We are meeting today to hear from the new U.S. Capitol Chief of Police, Matt Verderosa.

As a Committee, Chief, we certainly want to congratulate you on your appointment, and we are so looking forward to continuing to work with you shoulder to shoulder. So we appreciate you coming.

He is going to be talking, of course, today about his vision, his direction for the Capitol Police moving forward. Some of the specific items we hope to discuss today include the Capitol Police's budgets, their priorities, recent security events, respective actions taken, as well as the Capitol Police security initiatives, both current and future.

The Capitol Police is a law enforcement agency with a very unique mission, certainly. They are charged with protecting and serving the U.S. Capitol, the seat of our Nation's democracy. This is an institution, of course, of physical symbols of our free society. Unfortunately, our institution of freedom and democracy also is a target. So there will always be a need for security restrictions, but a complete ban on access would be extremely detrimental to the in-

stitution. The American people need to be able to access and to meet with their Members of Congress.

Since Congress created the U.S. Capitol Police in 1828, they have worked very hard to fulfill this dual mission of safety and accessibility. We certainly understand that this is no small task. Each of us, Members, staff, and visitors alike, have the utmost respect for the men and women who serve and protect our Nation's Capitol.

We are holding today's hearing as part of our Committee's responsibility for oversight and to review the safety and security of the Capitol and its facilities. Our last hearing actually with the Capitol Police was in May of 2015. Today the Committee will hear from the new Chief on the progress that has been made, his vision to continue to develop the force, the goals and priorities for the operation of the Capitol Police.

Our Committee, of course, works with the Capitol Police on a daily basis to ensure that they have the tools that they need, the authority, and the support that they need to keep our Capitol safe and secure for all. The Capitol Police are responsible for reviewing security protocols necessary to keep the Capitol safe and to ensure that those protocols are tested and deployed against any threats that we might face.

As with any law enforcement organization, the responsibility for meeting the mission begins and ends at the top, and that responsibility now rests with Chief Verderosa. The Chief understands the security needs of the Capitol Complex. The Chief has served in a number of roles within the Capitol Police since 1986. He has seen firsthand how new and variable threats have only increased over the years.

While there are some sensitive aspects about the operations and capabilities of the Capitol Police, there certainly are a number of items that we would like to discuss and receive an update on as well, certainly about some of the various incidents that had happened.

I know we have had an opportunity, Chief, to talk, I think, privately with all of the Members here about the shooting incident that occurred at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center. And by the way, that, I will just say, before you can get a chance, your staff, your Capitol Police, that thing happened by the book. They did such a fantastic job of reacting and responding. I mean, that thing, you could write a book, that thing was perfect; that response.

As well, we had all of these protests, week-long protests that happened recently here. We might like to hear about when you were processing such large number of arrests, how that all went, lessons learned, perhaps, for that. Also about your leadership team, your strategic plan, your goals and objectives, training, monitoring threats across the campus as well.

We have talked a little bit about garage security. I don't know if you want to touch on that today. It is always an issue, something that we all met about again recently. And I know you have met with many Members about that. Our Sergeant at Arms is very, very involved in that as well.

So I will also say, before I ask my Ranking Member to make a comment, I think since the gyrocopter incident we have all seen as Members of Congress here an increased amount of communication

from the U.S. Capitol Police on various incidents. In fact, we probably get almost more information than we need sometimes, but more is better. And so I am certainly very appreciative of that. I don't think any Member wants to be in a position where we are watching something unfold on the Capitol lawn on FOX News or CNN or whatever you are watching. So that, I think, is very much appreciated as well.

And so this Committee, of course, Chief, is here to assist the Capitol Police because we all share a common goal, and that is protecting the U.S. Capitol campus and everyone who works here and certainly all of the visitors, millions of visitors that come here each and every year.

So we certainly thank the Chief for his appearance here today. We are looking forward to his testimony.

I would like to recognize my Ranking Member, Mr. Brady, for his opening statement.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this very important hearing this morning.

Good to see you, Chief. Thank you for being here.

Chief VERDEROSA. Good morning, sir.

Mr. BRADY. I want to comment briefly and thank the Chief for how visible he has been with the congressional community.

Your predecessor was here 3½ years. I think I met him one time toward the end of his tenure. You have been here 3 months. I have met with you four times. I appreciate that.

As the son of a police officer, I know how hard your job can be, and I have heard from rank-and-file members about a positive change in the tone at the top of the organization, and my staff advise me that we are all working very well together. So thank you for that.

I would also like to thank you for traveling to Philadelphia last month and for taking the time to meet with our mayor, Jim Kenney, and myself to talk about congressional security at the convention.

I want to mention this for the benefit of my Republican colleagues, that our security professionals in Philadelphia are very impressed with the Chief and our Sergeant at Arms. I thank him for coming up and seeing us in Philadelphia.

You, again, showed the proper respect to all our Members, and we appreciate you. So that will speak very well for you and your convention in Cleveland also.

Thank you for your service, and I look forward to hearing your statement.

Chief VERDEROSA. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

I think both of those conventions are going to go absolutely smooth, right, just smooth.

Any other Member wish to make an opening statement or comment?

Okay. Let me formally introduce the Chief. On March 21, 2016, the Chief was sworn in as the new Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. Chief Verderosa is the ninth Chief and had been serving as the Assistant Chief of Police since April of 2015. The Chief has served in numerous roles with the U.S. Capitol Police since 1986, including

positions in the Uniformed and Patrol Division, the Internal Affairs Division, the Training and Services Bureau. In addition, he commanded the U.S. Capitol Police's Review Task Force before becoming Assistant Chief.

And as Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, Chief Verderosa is responsible for commanding a force of sworn and civilian personnel who are dedicated to providing comprehensive law enforcement, security, and protective operation services to the U.S. Congress—Members, staff, and as I said, millions of annual visitors as well, and to the surrounding complex also.

So, again, we certainly thank you for joining us, Chief. We have your written testimony. The floor is yours. Take as much time as you need. We appreciate you coming.

**STATEMENT OF MATTHEW VERDEROSA, CHIEF OF POLICE,
UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE**

Chief VERDEROSA. Thank you, ma'am. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be here.

Good morning, Members, and thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss the United States Capitol Police. I am joined here today by the Department's Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Richard Braddock; Deputy Chief Richard Rudd; Deputy Chief Fred Rogers; and also Deputy Chief Chad Thomas, who is staffing the airwaves right now, watching operations while I am here.

Also with me is our General Counsel, Gretchen DeMar. And members, representatives from the department's Office of Inspector General.

Also, I would like to welcome other members of my executive management team and also attending today, and I appreciate their presence here today. Our FOP chairman, Jim Konczos of our Labor Committee, and Gus Papathanasiou, who is the First Vice Chairman. Also with us are members of the Teamsters, our other union, who we work with on a daily basis.

I would like to thank the Committee for their steadfast support of the United States Capitol Police. The regular discussions that we have with you and your staff about our programs and management of our mission are greatly valued, and I am very grateful for the Committee's engagement and feedback so that we can continuously meet the needs and expectations of Congress.

Secondly, I would like to recognize the men and women of the United States Capitol Police. Every day they publicly demonstrate how American freedoms that we all hold dear are carried out in our Nation's capital. They work tirelessly to ensure that the Congress can conduct its legislative responsibilities without disruption, all the while exhibiting the utmost respect for the Constitution and the protection of First Amendment liberties.

I am thoroughly impressed with their performance, which is both seen and unseen by the public and the community, and I am thankful for their desire to constantly rise to the occasion and handle whatever comes our way.

I have been in Federal law enforcement for over 30 years, serving in a number of roles. And now as Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, I have the responsibility to you, to the Members of Congress,

the Capitol Police Board, the congressional staff, the visitors, and my employees to do everything possible to protect and safeguard everyone every day in a unique and open environment.

The threats and risks we face today are dynamic, they are changing, they are sophisticated, and they create a greater need for focus on national security. Coordinating with the Capitol Police Board and consulting with our committees of jurisdiction, including this Committee, the Committee on House Administration, we have developed a 4-year strategy that provides for growth of the department to fulfill three new mission sets in an effort to further enhance the successful long-term protection of the Capitol Complex.

These mission sets are the result of a constant threat analysis, including intelligence gathered by our partners globally and nationally. These initiatives consist of the following: enhanced garage security, as we have talked about on several occasions; pre-screeners and additional overwatch personnel at various building access points; and also, the further use of the enhanced portal screeners that we employed for the first time during the State of the Union.

Members and staff will see several enhancements as a result of the three initiatives. There will be a visible security screening at House garage entry points and a more significant officer presence outside Capitol Complex doors and access points, including additional K-9 teams and subject to interdiction officers. Visitors entering the House Chamber for major events will undergo additional screening through enhanced portal scanners, further keeping potential threats away from the House of Representatives and the floor of the House.

There has been much discussion regarding resources for the department and the long-term viability of these initiatives. As the Chief of Police and as a steward of the taxpayers' dollars, it is my fiduciary responsibility to look at every possibility within existing assets to accomplish our mission before I seek additional assets and resources. The Congress has been very generous to the department, and I will do my due diligence to first look within and not request something unless it is truly needed.

One of the tough decisions I have had to make to meet the new mission sets within our current resources is to find staffing to accomplish some of the additional screening requirements within our existing budget. To do this, and after discussing my concept with Chairman Konczos of the FOP Labor Committee, I have determined that it is most appropriate to modify some of our off-post time rotations in the Uniformed Services Bureau from the current standard of a one-to-four rotation to a one-to-five during shifts when the majority of officers are working, Monday through Friday, day and evenings. This will make additional manpower available and will result in only approximately 10 minutes less off-post time or standby time for employees.

With these enhancements come important opportunities. The modification of off-post rotations will result in more specialty job opportunities for employees throughout the department, specifically in the area of K-9 and subject interdiction. These officers will provide police coverage in zones outside access points to the complex.

I should note that this change does not alter the longstanding contractual obligations with our CBA, and the off-post time re-

mains well above the minimum required by the collective bargaining agreement for the purposes of conducting in-service training, allowing for appropriate relief time for officers who routinely are focused on working the security equipment.

While some additional resources will be necessary in the out-years to complete the initiatives and to provide stationary posts, I am confident in the department's ability to meet these new mission sets, and we will continue to look for ways to offset any cost and potential reapportionment of how we assign personnel.

In the months ahead, we have a number of high-profile protective events that will require much attention and manpower resources. Later this month, the annual Memorial Day rehearsal and concert will take place, followed by the 4th of July celebration on the west front of the Capitol. In July, the department will also be focusing its attention on the two Presidential nominating conventions in Cleveland, Ohio, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where we will be protecting Members of Congress.

In addition, we are officially planning the 58th Inaugural of the President of the United States, which takes place on January 20, 2017. While this national special security event takes place on Capitol Grounds every 4 years, it is prudent and necessary to begin preparations early enough to ensure absolute success in the execution of this significant mission set.

As the former commander of the department's policy and planning operations, I fully understand the importance of setting meaningful performance metrics focused on outcomes rather than outputs. We are currently in the process of building the foundation to better collect, analyze, and share the data that we collect department-wide with the ultimate goal of having information that allows my staff to be better informed in making management and security decisions.

The department is also actively engaged in addressing and resolving recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General. Since 2006, the USCP Inspector General has made 310 recommendations to the department. We have closed 255 by fully implementing the recommendations. We are actively working on closing the remaining 55 open recommendations, and annually I will continue to propose key areas for the Inspector General to examine so that she and her team can assist me in making needed changes that will make us a better department.

In closing, I want to share with you some of my priorities for the near term. I have always believed that the department's mission is simple yet extremely critical. I want to get back to the basics and not overcomplicate policing. I want to leverage existing resources in the law enforcement community to become smarter and more efficient, especially in the area of intelligence gathering. I plan to place a greater emphasis on training to help our workforce remain focused and to fight complacency and to ensure that supervisors are prepared to manage. These are the basic areas that I will focus on during the next year.

Finally, I think it is important to discuss and mention the March 28, 2016, shooting incident in the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center. From all practical perspectives, I want to say that the screening process works. On that day, we had an individual intent on wreak-

ing havoc. He was detected to be carrying a weapon during the process we employ each day to screen people visiting the Capitol Complex.

We were prepared, we responded appropriately, and it should serve as a lesson to others who may want to come to the Hill to do harm. Our highly trained officers will stop those individuals who wish to do us harm. I am extremely proud of the officers involved in this incident, and I am grateful to our partner agencies for their assistance, both throughout the event and following the incident.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today about the United States Capitol Police. I am truly humbled to be here, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you have.

[The statement of Chief Verderosa follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHIEF MATTHEW R. VERDEROSA
UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

Committee on House Administration
United States House of Representatives
May 17, 2016

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration to discuss the United States Capitol Police (USCP). It is an honor to appear before the Committee. I am joined here today by the Department's Chief Administrative Officer, Richard Braddock; the Acting Chief of Operations, Deputy Chief Chad Thomas; the Department's General Counsel, Gretchen DeMar; and the Department's Inspector General, Fay Ropella; as well as some of the members of my Executive Management Team. Also attending today is USCP Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Chairman James Konczos and representation from the USCP Teamsters.

First, I would like to thank the Committee for its steadfast support of the United States Capitol Police. The regular discussions that we have with you and your staff about our programs and the management of our mission are greatly valued, as they allow us the opportunity to provide the Committee with important updates about our activities, challenges, and areas of focus. More importantly, I am grateful for the Committee's engagement and feedback so that the Department can continuously meet the needs of the Congress.

Second, I would like to recognize the men and women of the United States Capitol Police. On a daily basis, they publically demonstrate how the American freedoms that we all

hold dear are carried out in the nation's Capital. They work tirelessly to ensure that the Congress is able to conduct its legislative responsibilities without disruption, all the while exhibiting the utmost respect for the Constitution and protection of First Amendment liberties. I am thoroughly impressed with their performance, of which is both seen and unseen by the community, and I am thankful for their desire to constantly rise to the occasion and handle whatever comes our way.

I have been in federal law enforcement for over 30 years, serving in a number of roles, and now, as the Chief of Police for the United States Capitol Police, I have a responsibility to you, the Members, the Capitol Police Board, the Congressional staff, the visitors, and to my employees to do everything possible to protect and safeguard everyone each day in an open and unique environment. The threats and risks we face today are dynamic and sophisticated, creating a greater need to focus on national security. Coordinating with the Capitol Police Board and consulting our committees of jurisdiction, including the Committee on House Administration, the USCP has developed a four year strategy that provides for growth of the Department to fulfill three new mission sets, in an effort to further enhance the successful long-term protection of the Capitol Complex. These mission sets are the result of constant threat analyses, including intelligence gathered by our partners globally, and consist of the following initiatives:

1. Enhancement of House Garage Security;
2. Pre-screener and additional over-watch personnel at various building access points;
and
3. Enhanced Portal Scanners Use

Members and staff will see several enhancements as a result of these three initiatives.

There will be visible security screening at House Garage entry points and a more significant presence outside Capitol Complex entry points, including an integration of a greater presence of canine teams. For visitors, those wishing to enter the House Chamber during major events will undergo additional screening through enhanced portal scanners, further keeping potential threats away from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

There has been much discussion regarding resources for the Department and the long-term viability of these major enhancement initiatives. As the Chief of Police and being a steward of public tax dollars, it is my fiduciary responsibility to look at every possibility within the Department to accomplish our mission before asking for additional resources. The Congress has been very generous to the Department, and I will do my due diligence first, looking within, and not request something unless it is truly needed. While it is clear that the new mission sets are necessary, and again, the Congress has been very generous in terms of resources, I am painfully aware as all the public is, these are difficult fiscal times and often we must make tough decisions on how best to use personnel and when there is a need to make internal sacrifices for the greater good of the institution. Therefore, one of the tough decisions I have had to make has been to devise a way to meet the new mission sets within our current resources. To do this, after discussing my concept with the FOP Labor Committee Chairman, I have decided to move forward with modifying off-post rotations in the Uniformed Services Bureau from the current standard of a 1:4 rotation to a 1:5 rotation, during the shifts when the majority of officers are working, Monday through Friday. This ensures that emergency response will be least impacted and the changes can be absorbed with the least overall impact per person. Further, this will result

in the availability of additional manpower for the new mission sets and equates to approximately 10 minutes less off-post (stand-by) time for the employees. With the enhancements I discussed previously, come opportunities. The modification of off-post rotations will result in more specialty job opportunities being available to employees throughout the Department, specifically in the areas of K-9 and subject interdiction. These officers will serve to provide police coverage in zones outside access points across the Capitol Complex. I should note that this change does not alter the long-standing contractual obligations with the FOP, and the off-post time remains well above the minimum required in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. This time is used for conducting necessary computer based in-service training, provides for time to conduct additional readiness drills, and also serves to allow for relief time for officers who routinely remain focused on security equipment.

While some additional resources will be necessary in out-years to complete these initiatives and to provide stationary posts, I am confident in the Department's ability to meet these new mission sets and we will continue to examine all areas for additional savings and potential reapportionment of personnel. Making tough, sometimes unpopular decisions, is one of the necessary tasks Chiefs of Police have to perform and this decision is, in my opinion, the most appropriate way to meet the mission and provides the least amount of impact on the institution.

In the months ahead, the Department has a number of high-profile protective events both on and off the Capitol Complex that require much attention and manpower resources. Later this month, the annual Memorial Day rehearsal and concert will take place, followed by the Fourth of July celebration on the West Front of the Capitol. In July, the Department will also be focusing

its attention to the two National Conventions in Cleveland, Ohio and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where we will be protecting Members of Congress at both venues. Working in close collaboration with the United States Secret Service, and the local law enforcement agencies in the respective jurisdictions, the planning for both conventions is on schedule and I am very pleased with the work conducted by the USCP. In addition to convention planning, the USCP has officially begun the planning process for the 58th Inauguration of the President of the United States scheduled for January 20, 2017. While this National Special Security Event takes place on Capitol Grounds every four years, it is prudent and necessary to begin planning and preparing for this effort early on to ensure absolute success in the execution of our significant mission.

As the former commander of the Department's policy and planning operations, I fully understand the importance of setting meaningful performance metrics focused on outcomes, rather than outputs. The USCP implemented a Strategic Plan in FY2015, which emphasizes employing a results-oriented, data-driven approach to meet current and future threats and challenges. We are currently in the process of building the foundations to better collect, analyze, and share data Department-wide, with the ultimate goal of having information that allows my staff to be better informed in making management and security decisions. Concurrently, we are in the middle of conducting our annual Force Development Budget Process which is instrumental in creating critical components of our draft FY 2018 budget request. This process allows us to identify threats and risks both internal and external; examines our programs and resources; determines which new initiatives, if any, to focus on; validates resource utilization; and identifies potential new initiatives necessary to address risks, threats, and gaps. The Department's Strategic Plan is playing a significant role in the Force Development Process, and I

am confident that our FY 2018 budget request will be solidly focused on addressing identified risks, threats, and gaps.

The Department is also actively engaged and focused on addressing and resolving recommendations made by the USCP Office of Inspector General (OIG). Since its creation in 2006, the USCP OIG has made 310 recommendations to the Department and the Department has closed 255 of those by fully implementing the recommendations. The USCP has a designated Audit Liaison that is continuing to work on the actions necessary for the closure of the 55 remaining open recommendations, as well as facilitate the review of evidence for closure considerations by OIG staff. I actively participate in this process, and value the recommendations proposed by Inspector General Ropella. As a matter of fact, annually, I will propose key areas for the Inspector General to examine so that she and her team can assist me in making needed changes that will make us a better department.

As the Department did with the implementation of its new radio system, I am actively overseeing, with my Chief Administrative Officer, the work necessary to reopen the new firing range in the near future, so that we may benefit from its full capabilities. The Department remains grateful to the Congress for providing us with this beneficial resource for the accomplishment of our mission. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize our partnership with the Architect of the Capitol on this important effort, as the AOC's collaboration and expertise has been instrumental throughout this process.

Before I close my prepared remarks, I just want to share with you where I will be focusing my attention in the near-term. Transitions between Chiefs or leaders do not necessarily need to be traumatic. I have always believed that the Department's mission is simple yet extremely critical. Since taking over the position of Chief, I have tried to ensure that there is continuity by focusing on the Department's law enforcement and administrative operations and ensuring that we are prepared to handle the basics. To date, my focus has been on the day-to-day operations, as this is what I believe is the most important factor in building both internal and external confidence in the USCP. To that end, I want to ensure that the troops and civilians are prepared for their jobs and areas of responsibilities. I especially place great emphasis on ensuring the officers use every precious hour of training that we provide. I will be building upon our current in-service training programs in the months ahead, after officers complete this current series of training, by bringing the next generation of courses to them that will be concentrated on helping our workforce remain focused and to fight complacency.

I intend to promote several sergeants and lieutenants based on the results of the recently completed promotion processes and am formulating processes for the vacancies at the ranks of Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief. I am also looking at ways to better train our supervisors. We have an emerging cadre of supervisors who are of a different generation than before. We need to make sure that they are prepared to supervise and manage adequately, better understanding the employees so that we can ensure optimum performance and achievement of our mission. To me, the most effective leaders and supervisors are the ones who can relate to a person on a human level; those who explain expectations in simple terms and who gain compliance through that relationship rather than with the hammer. This is all part of effectively communicating. I plan to

make this a central focus of my administration and accordingly, I intend to have a personal conversation with every supervisor so that this proven leadership philosophy can be implemented across the Department and we have a more enlightened and informed workforce.

I also want to instill a sense of getting “back to the basics” of what we do, not overcomplicating policing, with an emphasis on ensuring the daily stops or contacts our officers have with the public are documented and evaluated from an intelligence gathering perspective. The Protective Services Bureau will be exploring ways to improve our suspicious activity reporting processes so that we can use the data most effectively. We also need to leverage processes and make innovative changes which are advantageous to the Department in order to become smarter and more efficient. A good example of such a process is the use of a field arrest form to cite and release large numbers of compliant demonstrators engaging in civil disobedience. We recently had over 10 days of daily demonstrations which resulted in approximately 1,300 arrests. On the first and last days of the demonstration activity, the Department arrested and processed 429 arrests and 300 arrests, respectively. These were record numbers of arrests in our modern-era USCP history. Had our staff not used field arrest forms to accomplish these arrests, we may have overwhelmed our processes and ability to ensure safe processing of arrestees. Leveraging a tool that I believed was available to us, coordinating with the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General, and gaining insight from our longtime partners at the Metropolitan Police Department and the United States Park Police, we reviewed and modified their policies, forms, and procedures for applicability to the Capitol Complex and were able to arrest, process, and release a very large number of offenders in a very short period of time. Using the old method of arresting demonstrators, we may still be processing those

arrestees. While it is difficult to quantify the savings in terms of costs, suffice it to say that to process the over 400 arrests on day one, we would have had to process prisoners around the clock for at least 4 days to accomplish a task we completed in 10 hours. By the end of the week of demonstrations, we processed 300 arrests in approximately 3 hours. I applaud the initiative of commanders who took a concept, put it into practice, took lessons learned each day over the period of a week and refined the process to a point that we were able to efficiently process the group without incident. I would also like to thank the District of Columbia Office of Attorney General, working with our Office of the General Counsel, for its support in ensuring that this process was successfully implemented for use by the Department. And of course, the real credit goes to the officers who professionally carried out their duties, made changes to the process while in the field to immediately realize greater efficiencies, stood on the perimeters, skillfully handled the arrests on a personal level with the arrestees, and made the process work. I'm very proud to represent them and to be able to sit here and boast about their accomplishments as they deserve the credit, along with their onsite leaders who helped coordinate and direct the action.

Finally, I think it is important to discuss the March 28, 2016 shooting incident at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. From all practical perspectives, I want to say that the screening process indeed works. As much as we want to rely on technology day in and day out, we at some point have to deal with visitors when they enter our facilities. On that day, we had an individual intent on wreaking havoc. He was detected to be carrying a weapon during the process we employ each day to screen people visiting the Capitol Complex. He was challenged and he was stopped, as the process is designed to do. There were minimal injuries to innocent bystanders and no USCP officer was hurt. It is unfortunate that the situation occurred but, as everyone knows simply by

watching the news each day, these events happen all too often. We were prepared, we responded appropriately, and it should serve as a lesson to others who may want to do harm at the Capitol Complex – our highly trained officers will use their training to stop those who wish to do harm. I'm extremely proud of the officers involved in this incident, and I am extremely satisfied in how the design of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center has provided us with an ability to quickly handle these types of incidents.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to talk about the United States Capitol Police. I would be pleased to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Chief.

I would ask, we mentioned about better communication from the U.S. Capitol Police to all the Members of Congress. If you could perhaps expand on that a bit of how your agency communicates and how you work with your brother agencies here locally. For instance, when we had the Navy Yard incident and just communicating with D.C. Police or other agencies as well. How is that all working?

Chief VERDEROSA. Certainly. We have a very good relationship with our partner agencies here in D.C., particularly the Metropolitan Police, the United States Park Police, the United States Secret Service, Federal Protective Service, Supreme Court Police. We have communications, interoperable communications with our partner agencies. We have a direct switch line to the Secret Service, the Metropolitan Police, the Park Police.

We work very closely with, we are embedded with several FBI task forces, the JTF, and we have an ongoing relationship with the Supreme Court and the Federal Protective Service. And they actually man our command center on a regular basis, on a daily basis, so that we have direct communications.

We also work with other agencies on an ad hoc basis. We have interoperable radio communications with most of the local agencies, and we are working to solidify further the ability to communicate directly from a command perspective. We meet regularly with the Metropolitan Police in their law enforcement partners meeting every Monday. I attend various meetings, as do my subordinate officials, at a multitude of levels, on a multitude of issues, regarding the ongoing law enforcement issues, threats, and events that are occurring throughout the District of Columbia.

We certainly have lessons learned from all of these major events, including the Navy Yard, the second Navy Yard incident, and the difference between the first and second in terms of communication was extreme. Incident command, as a matter of fact, Deputy Chief Rogers was command post representative for the United States Capitol Police during that second ongoing Navy Yard issue.

We all employ incident command system processes for leadership and command, area command, and we communicate on a regular and daily basis during events and during the off times. Offshoot of some of the gyrocopter incident was communication with the community. We have improved our messaging matrix. And I apologize if we give you too much. I would rather have you have too much than too little. Obviously, it is important that you know what is going on for situational awareness and for the effect that incidents have on the legislative process. We take great strides to make sure that you have the information that you need, both on the House side and the Senate side.

We shortly will have a joint congressional messaging process that is being worked on jointly with all of the stakeholders, and I look forward to that. So that will cut out some of the—if there is delay, it will certainly cut out redundancy and it will be more efficient.

The CHAIRMAN. If I could ask just one other question, Chief, and I appreciate the answer to the first one. But we talk about investment with the U.S. Capitol Police, and certainly there is no second for investing in people and all kinds of technology that can assist

you, resourcing you properly. I will tell you, the K-9s are unbelievable. I mean, what a critical component. I mean, those dogs can just find things that no computer can, it seems like, right?

Chief VERDEROSA. Oh, absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. Yeah. How do you do with the K-9s? Do you need more of them? How do you see that unfolding?

Chief VERDEROSA. We are expanding our K-9 capability by six dogs in the near term. Part of that is the traditional EOD-type sweeps, and we have some other new techniques that we use, which I would be happy to discuss offline, which will just contribute to being a force multiplier for us in terms of what we do.

Absolutely, the dogs are invaluable. They can do many things that humans can't. They detect things at long distances. They can detect things that we obviously would not know were there. So we do literally hundreds and thousands of sweeps every year with the dogs, and again, they are invaluable to us.

We currently have an opening in our—and we get tremendous competition for the openings in the K-9-unit. It is really, truly incredible.

The CHAIRMAN. Right. Thank you very much.

I recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chief, as you know, I do represent Philadelphia. Thank you for your visit. That is where the Democratic National Convention will take place. But I would like for you to discuss your preparations from the Capitol Police perspective, not only in Philadelphia but also in Cleveland. What were your preparations there?

Chief VERDEROSA. Absolutely. Our convention planning is well underway. We have been working. Our Dignitary Protection Division has the lead. The Secret Service is the lead planner for both events, both in Philadelphia and in Cleveland.

As part of the NSSE broad approach and Committee approach, we planned these events within that framework. So we have employed the NSSE framework for any number of major events, including previous conventions, State of the Union addresses, and the inaugurations, and it is really a sound system that we cover all bases.

Our Dignitary Protection Division has made multiple visits to both venues, both cities. They have procured the requisite lodging. And we are in the process of designing a security plan for those specific venues, both the actual convention venues and any ancillary venues for events that are occurring outside the main venue.

I appreciate the opportunity to travel to Philadelphia and meet with you, and I appreciate the introduction that you gave us to the Philadelphia officials. It helped me tremendously in my ability to communicate the message to my troops and to make sure that we are doing all the things that we need to do.

We are going to be traveling to, either myself or representatives, along with the House Sergeant at Arms and other stakeholders, to Cleveland in the very near future, just as we did in the Philadelphia trip. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners, both State, local, and Federal, to ensure that the security plan for the Member protection—and that is the reason we are going to be there, to make sure that the Members of Congress have

a safe event and we can protect the interests of our statutory protectees.

We will continue to regularly brief the Capitol Police Board, and my staff is available to brief the Committee at your request on the status of the planning.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Chief.

Also, it goes without saying, the people you brought here, you have a pretty good relationship with the other unions, the Teamsters and the police unions. And I also know because they are not knocking down my door, and they have been for the last 3 years, every other month coming in and trying to complain about what we can do to be helpful. That is not happening. So I know you are doing a good job.

But just tell me, how often do you meet with your reps?

Chief VERDEROSA. I meet with Chairman Konczos and his team, it is about every 2 weeks. But in between, his staff and my staff are working on issues. Dominic Storelli, formerly of House Administration, is my Chief of Staff, and he works directly with Jim on a number of issues. I meet on a number of issues, whether it is contract negotiations or just daily grievance type issues.

The philosophy for me, and I have known Chairman Konczos and Gus Papathanasiou for many years, particularly Jim for almost 30 years, and we have a mutual respect for each other's positions. I have asked Jim to be here today, and I appreciate his attendance. Since I was appointed, we reinstated the regular meetings. I plan on continuing the regular meetings.

We also believe—I think we both believe that there is significant common ground that we can address issues, try to resolve issues at the lowest level before they become grievances, and we work on things of mutual interest. Of course, we will probably disagree on some issues, but I think we have the kind of relationship that we will be able to work through those issues in an amicable way and try to do what is best for the Congress.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Chief. And thank the men for the job that you do every single day. And it is a pleasure to be working with you.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper is recognized.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Madam Chair.

And, Chief, thank you for being here. I know this has been a very sobering weekend with the memorial service that was Sunday and how that, I know, means so much to you, and your attendance we greatly appreciate.

You know, last week, the House passed some important bills, and one of which was to fund the Bulletproof Vest Program to help local law enforcement with that lifesaving bulletproof vest, to help on those funding issues there.

And I know you and I had an opportunity to meet. I want to thank you for coming to my office and for us having that opportunity. And as I told you in that meeting, if I had an issue or a problem, I am going to come to you and we will discuss it. I won't be running to the press to talk about it. You and I will have a chance to do that, and I want to reiterate that here.

But what can we do as a Committee and as individual Members of Congress to help you do your job? And I am not talking about the funding issues.

Chief VERDEROSA. Sure.

Mr. HARPER. What else can we do?

Chief VERDEROSA. I thank you for meeting with me, both privately and for your comments today, sir. I appreciate the Committee's support on initiatives, whether it is garage security or portal scanners or any of the other issues that come up.

It is interesting, because it is such a large institution and I have a very large workforce. Sometimes it takes a little while for information to filter down. We are working on the communication piece. But it is also incumbent on us to assist the Sergeant at Arms on both sides and the leadership to communicate the message of any changes that we do.

Change does not come easy for people, both within the department and in general. I know that. I have a 24-year-old. It is hard to change anything without an argument or a reason. I have to explain my reasoning. And I try to do that because it is the right thing to do. I want to be able to communicate changes. And that is one of the reasons that I do meet with the union leadership. I want to have that open communication.

But I also want to have that with the community, and I intend to continue to visit Member offices and try to advise you all, everybody, both on the Committee and off, on what we are doing and why we do things. Because I think if you have the information, it helps sell the message and it helps us change sort of the mindset, whether we are going to institute new operations or new procedures.

So I appreciate the opportunity to be able to come to the Members and be able to explain why we do things. I think it is important to maintain that communication.

Mr. HARPER. Chief, firearm qualifications, certifications are very important, and I know we are in an interim here—

Chief VERDEROSA. Yes.

Mr. HARPER [continuing]. With the range being out of place. Tell me what you are doing in the interim and how the new facility will be an improvement over the old.

Chief VERDEROSA. Appreciate the question, sir.

We are in our current cycle, even though we are off site. In the interim, while our range is down and we are preparing for the opening—the reopening—of the new range, I want to thank the Congress and the Architect for providing the funds and the space and the ability to have a range that is so close to where we work.

What it does for us is it helps us minimize the impact of having our sworn workforce off the grounds in a status that is either not working or in training. It is travel time. It really helps us to have the range here. We had the old range in the Rayburn for over 50 years, and we got tremendous amount of use of the range. And I couldn't even quantify how much time and effort we save by having the range locally.

Our goal is to have the new range open up soon, by Labor Day, and have it in use for at least another 50 years. It will certainly

outlast me. But so far in this cycle we have qualified 87 percent of the Police Department.

Now, we have reaped some benefit, even though there is a little bit of cost associated with sending them out to Cheltenham, Maryland, where our entry-level academy is. We have maximized the use of that time by continuing the training day. So we send officers out for the entire day rather than have them traveling back to the Hill. So we leverage the ability to use some more of our training time during that extra day.

I look forward to having the range back here on the Hill, though, as you can see, we probably will be able to finish our current cycle by June 1, hopefully, if not, sometime in June, and then we will move onto the second. We have semiannual qualification, so we shoot twice a year in the fiscal year. We are a little bit off the cycle, however. With the indulgence of the stakeholders, we have a great plan to get the range up and running, and it really will provide us with the ability to change how we train. It is a dynamic range, and it is really helpful for us to be able to tactically use a range.

Mr. HARPER. Great. Thank you, Chief.

And I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thanks very much.

And welcome to you, Chief. It is good to meet you.

And I am hoping that at some point we can have a closed session with the Chief, because there are some questions it probably wouldn't be smart to ask in a public environment, but that we should get the answers to.

Just two things. I was concerned in discussing this with the prior Chief, that although there was communication with other law enforcement agencies, there didn't appear to be a written mutual aid protocol. And so I am interested in not going through it today, but in reviewing that with you in terms of the protocol, what it is, and how it is communicated to our workforce, number one.

And number two, I am wondering if the department has ideas on how the physical layout of the campus might be adjusted to enhance safety and also to enhance the capacity of your members to do their job.

Chief VERDEROSA. Certainly, the physical security is one of our main issues. We have a very robust Security Services Bureau, and they handle all the physical security aspects working very closely with the Architect of the Capitol. The measures that were put in place post-9/11, we are at the life cycle end of a lot of the life. We are looking at doing life cycle replacement. Of course, it is always a very expensive issue, but it is certainly something that is very necessary.

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, let me interrupt, because I don't think I was clear on my question. For example, where is the perimeter? I mean, we respect the Fourth Amendment. You have to have a rationale for inquiring. But at the perimeter of a facility you don't. So where are the perimeters set and how should they be set and how would that make a difference for your troops?

In terms of level of securities in garages, we have garages that have nothing above them, we have garages that have an office building above them.

Chief VERDEROSA. Yes.

Ms. LOFGREN. What kind of deployment makes sense in each one? Those are the things I was thinking of.

Chief VERDEROSA. Sure. Absolutely. Of course, we always balance the open campus with the level of security that we provide, and it is very important to maintain. And it is very difficult, you are absolutely right, it is a very difficult balance for our officers. We don't have a physical fence. We don't have structures that prevent people from walking across the east front, west front. We use our human intuitive capability and we deploy personnel.

Obviously, within the framework of the infrastructure, whether it is the Olmsted wall or whether it is physical barriers that we install, bollards, barriers that pop up for vehicular threats and those types of things, we have to be, obviously, very cognizant of the effect that security has on the openness and the ability for constituents to visit Members.

Ms. LOFGREN. Of course.

Chief VERDEROSA. And it is a very huge competing interest in the security issue.

So we focus our main thrust and concentration on the largest threats, and we are always looking for the individual threat, which is one of the greatest threats that we have these days, the individual.

But we have to balance it and accept a modicum of risk in terms of the physical structures that we put in to prevent people from approaching the building. We do work very closely with both this Committee and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

So to work on those issues, whether it is expanding the perimeter, allowing access close into the building, or whether it is initiatives to do inspection of things that people bring with them to the grounds. So it is a very tenuous line that we walk, and we take a very hard look at any type of procedure we are going to employ that could come close to, you know, could be perceived as a violation of the Fourth Amendment. We certainly don't want to do anything that would be contrary to the Constitution.

So it is a work in progress. We work on it continually. It is a conversation that I have with the Capitol Police Board on a regular basis and we will continue to have with the committees of jurisdiction.

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, I see my time has expired. Perhaps we can pursue this further.

Chief VERDEROSA. Absolutely.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you.

Thanks, Madam Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I appreciate you holding this.

And, Chief, welcome.

Chief VERDEROSA. Thank you, sir.

Mr. NUGENT. And I appreciate your time when you came up to visit with me in the office. And what a different approach, I will just say this, and I am not blowing smoke, but what a different approach in regards to your approach and the prior Chief with inclu-

sion of the union in a weekly or whenever-it-is-necessary discussion. You know, typically you are going to probably agree on more things that you are going to disagree. You are always going to have disagreement. That happens in the best of families.

But at the end of the day the rank-and-file folks out there doing the job every day have some great ideas. And I think that you are moving absolutely in the right direction. And I think we will be much safer as Members of Congress because of that collaboration between the two groups.

One of the things that still strikes me when we go back and look at past history, and we had the Chief here discuss that, particularly when we had loss of weapons and things like that, but reading an article where the person who sent the picture got how many months off without pay and demoted and the person who actually left the weapon unattended in a location that could be accessed by their folks received a suspension but relatively minor in scope.

And I guess I am still a little miffed at the fact that that supervisor got demoted but then also had a huge suspension without pay. And I understand it is in litigation, so you probably can't talk about it. But I would hope just in the future that what that person did has actually brought out an issue that needed to be under the light of day so we all know and we all take confidence in what goes on within the Capitol Police.

And I will go along with Mr. Brady on this; I have not had any negative comments with the union at all. That is a testament to your leadership. I will just be very blunt with that. It is a testament to your leadership, and I hope that continues.

You know, one of the things that I know we talked about was management by walking around, is walking around your organization and listening to the folks. You are only as good as the people you surround yourself with, and I would suggest that your leadership team do the same and I am sure they are under your leadership.

One of the things Ms. Lofgren had mentioned is security, and I think that is an issue that we all grapple with from time to time. And you are right, we have an open campus. But what exactly, as we move forward in regards to the underground facilities—I know that the equipment is in place—when are we actually going to start to do that screening?

Chief VERDEROSA. We will be doing the security screening, with the appropriate communication first, very soon. I can't give you a specific date. I am working with Mr. Irving, the Sergeant at Arms, and we want to time it right so that we introduce the screening process. We have had some community meetings with the staff several weeks ago in terms of how we would roll it out. And I am working very closely with Mr. Irving on exactly when we want to do it strategically so we cause the least amount of disruption to the business process of the community.

But I would expect sometime in the next several weeks that we will do it and we will certainly communicate it. I got that message loud and clear. We are going to make sure that we properly communicate, make sure everyone is aware of what we are going to do.

I do appreciate your comments about working with the union, sir. You know, I respect the troops. You know, I consider myself

first and foremost a police officer, and I am prepared every time I am out on the street to take police action. I carry—I don't have it today, because I am wearing this blouse—but I carry my radio every day, I monitor the radio, and I take police action when I need to.

And I have tremendous respect for the work that we do here. I ask a lot of the troops. They are ambassadors. They still have to enforce the rules and the law, and they deal with 10 to 12 million people a year. And that is just screening them through the process. There are probably another 10 million who walk through the grounds that we do, we talk to, we interact with.

And I am always amazed at how few complaints that we get from the citizens and the staff about courtesy or those types of things. They truly are ambassadors. They do hard work. They are focused on the x-ray machines and the magnetometers, knowing every time that they have to be 100 percent; they have to be sharp.

So I appreciate members of both unions being here today, and I appreciate the relationship I have with the officers. I always hope to have a positive relationship. Obviously, there are things that we are going to disagree on, and I have to make tough decisions and tough choices that affect people. But I never fall short of understanding that these are people. They are not numbers. They have families. They have ambition. They have interests.

And to me, I try to treat people the way I want to be treated. I am not making a moral judgment on any previous Chief or anybody else. It is just my approach to how I work with my staff. And I have leaders and deputy chiefs and civilian directors who are out with the troops. And I appreciate that comment as well because they are good role models, they are out amongst their troops.

Again, we make management decisions and they are tough decisions and not everyone agrees on the best approach to how we get to that bottom line, but the officers are a great resource.

A great example of that is processing the 1,300 or so arrests that we had a couple of weeks ago during the Democracy Spring demonstration period.

Now, this was nonviolent civil disobedience. It was non-confrontational for the most part. And it took a lot of planning and effort and a lot of manpower. And it is not me making the arrests. It is the officers that come in early. It is the officers that have to be the arresting officer. And it is the people who do the job that I respect, I have so much respect for, because really I have worked the posts and I have done those jobs.

And it is on a Sunday. Sometimes you have got to come in, you have got to wake up early, and you would rather be doing something else. But, hey, it is why we get paid the big bucks, and they do a tremendous job.

But we took a concept and a new approach on how we handled mass arrests. Other agencies in the city have had the ability to cite and release people. Traditionally here with the way the rules are set up and the laws, we have had to have full custody arrests for most of the arrestees that we handle, even in mass arrests civil disobedience situations, and it is tremendous in terms of time and effort. These are the same troops during that week that had to go

day to day for about 10 days and be the same people being brought in early to handle these arrests.

So we took a concept that I thought could be employed. We borrowed and adapted the Metropolitan Police's PD 61D cite and release forms, their policy. We adapted them to ours. We worked with the Attorney General for the District of Columbia to make sure that we were using the appropriate charges. And when the law changed in 2013, it made it easier for us to use this process. So we employed it and we were able to expedite the process.

But the reason I bring this up is it really wasn't me. I had the concept, but the officers are the ones who took—even from the first day we had arrests, it took about 8 hours to process 429 people. I mean, it doesn't seem like a lot of time, but when you look at how—we would still probably be processing these arrests had we been using the old method, the old mass arrests method.

In that short duration of 1 week, the officers came up with a great idea, with a couple of the lieutenants who were running the mission set, and expedited the process. So that by the end of that week we processed 300 arrests in 3 hours, which is just phenomenal, and we had very few issues. And we will further refine the process based on the suggestions of the officers.

So I agree with you that some of the best ideas come up from the ranks and rise through the ranks. So I am very appreciative of the effort of everybody on the CDU, the Civil Disturbance Unit.

Switching gears on you for one second, yes, the case in the paper is in litigation. I would prefer not to talk about it. But the individual is on administrative leave with pay, not without pay for that period of time. So I wanted to set the record straight on that.

Mr. NUGENT. Okay. And, Chief, thanks for your comments. I appreciate the indulgence of the Chair. And maybe you ought to talk to your counterpart in the TSA in regards to listening to people that work there. It would be helpful. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Vargas.

Mr. VARGAS. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for the opportunity to ask you a few questions.

First of all, I would like to thank you once again for meeting with me in my office; letting me know what you are doing and what you are planning to do. And I appreciate that. It was very helpful. Thank you.

Secondly, you weren't here earlier, but I thanked the Capitol Police. I think you have been doing a really terrific job, and I appreciate that.

I did want to mention one incident that we had here. A colleague of ours fell hard during one of the snowstorms and hurt himself. He was found by another colleague of ours, who then quickly got a couple police officers here, Capitol Police to bring him inside. And they were very smart to figure out that he had some chest pains and didn't let him walk away as he wanted to walk away. They said, "No, we are calling the medics," and they did, and they got the medical response team to come.

And again, appreciate their very professional work. You know, we would have probably allowed him to walk away, and that would have been a very bad idea. So again, I think the police did a fantastic job, and I want to thank them for that.

I do want to ask a little bit about the issue of the open campus. I have been to the Bundestag in Germany, and they do put a fence around it. It is very difficult to access it. We see more and more they have a fence now, a double fence over around the front of the White House. Obviously, that gives you a lot of protection, but it also prevents people from actually accessing the White House, which at one point they had access to.

So there is a balance there, and I think it is important to give people the opportunity to come and visit their Members of Congress and the Senate. But it is also interesting the issue of security, not so much even for us, but those people that do come and visit us.

So anyway, I appreciate that you said you give that a lot of interest, a lot of thought. Could you comment a little bit more on that, if you will?

Chief VERDEROSA. Sure. We do try to leverage technology to the extent that we can. And believe me, again, the force multiplier of technology, the systems. Some of the systems that I prefer not to talk about in an open forum, but they are there for us to use, and we do use them, and we deploy them very effectively.

I think as technology increases and the quality of the technology, I think we will be able to leverage that. Obviously, there is no replacement for having an officer on the beat, on a fixed post or in a patrol area that will focus on the security, particularly close in. You know, we take sort of a layered approach. We want to keep the threat as far away as we can, we push it out, and as you get closer to the concentric circle you want to have your assets.

We do leverage even the physical security aspects where we have barriers and kiosks. We have posts, staff, and we use the buildings as sort of funnels. We can sort of keep eyes on people and individuals who approach from the various directions.

But again, we never want to trample on the ability for people to visit. I am not advocating putting up a fence or anything like that.

I think with our troops and a focus and an approach where we maintain our vigilance in terms of looking at the threat, training our employees what to look for, and being able to make sure that the troops are fresh and they are able to react appropriately, I think with training and staffing, that combination, along with the physical security attributes that we have, we have been provided with to protect the campus, I think that the ongoing conversation will continue with the Capitol Police Board and with the committees to ensure that we have all the things that we need, particularly technologically, that will help us and assist us so that we can leverage that without sort of closing the campus off.

So I know that it is sort of a work in progress. The technology changes every day. We want to be able to stay ahead of the curve and we want to keep our finger on the pulse in terms of what is available to us to sort of use to leverage as a force multiplier.

Mr. VARGAS. Again, thank you very much. And lastly, I know my time is about up, but I would like to say this. Even though they do monitor the threat, they are very polite and professional too, and I appreciate that. I know I have commented to a couple people in particular. And I appreciate their professionalism. Thank you.

Chief VERDEROSA. Thank you.

Mr. VARGAS. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

And, Chief, again, we just want to thank you so much for coming today. We all are very desirous and looking forward to working with you shoulder to shoulder, not just you but your management team and all the rank and file, the union fellows that are here representing all the rank and files. And just know that we appreciate it.

Every one of us is coming into these offices and these office buildings, the Capitol every day, we watch your folks day in and day out, and do their job so professionally and bravely and well. And we all have a very high degree of comfort and security about the professionalism of the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police force.

This Committee stands by to assist you. And one thing I would say, and I know I have said this to you privately, I will say it publicly as well, don't sometimes wait for a hearing or wait for us to come forward with something. We really want to know from you if there is a shortfall somewhere that you see as a particularly critical element of something that we better be aware of, we need to help with. That is why we are here. We all work together.

Chief VERDEROSA. I sincerely appreciate the support and how cooperative the staff have been with me when I want to bring forward, if I want to come meet with the Members. I really sincerely appreciate the opportunity to be here today. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Without objection, all Members will have 5 legislative days to submit additional written questions for the witness, if we have any, and we will forward them. I ask the Chief to respond as promptly as he can so that any answers could be made part of the record.

Without objection, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:06 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

